

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation or)
Suspension of the Educator's)
Certificate of Joseph J. Murmello,)
Certificate # 206654)

ORDER OF PERMANENT REVOCATION

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 13, 2004. On March 3, 2004, the State Department of Education (Department) sent a notice of the possible suspension or revocation of his certificate to Mr. Murmello by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Mr. Murmello received the notice, as evidenced by the signed receipt. Mr. Murmello replied by e-mail to the Department on March 19, 2004, stating that he would like a hearing but indicated that he would not be able to attend nor seek counsel so, "I am in dire straits, so I guess the answer is, I hope the Lord will be in the room when the Board meets, and they make the decision they see fit." After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to permanently revoke Mr. Murmello's teaching certificate # 206654.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Mr. Murmello holds a valid South Carolina certificate, and has over seven years of teaching experience mostly in Pennsylvania with just over a year and a half in South Carolina. He was under contract with the Charleston County School District (District) for the 2003-2004 school year as an assistant principal at Wando High School. The Department learned that Mr. Murmello had surrendered his Pennsylvania teaching

certificate in 2001 due to having inappropriate relationships with two seventeen year old female students. The Pennsylvania Department of Education provided the Department with inappropriate e-mails from Mr. Murmello, which outlined his relationships with the students.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

“The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person.” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (1990). Just cause includes: “Unprofessional conduct;, Immorality; Any conduct involving moral turpitude” S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990). The State Board finds that the preponderance of the evidence presented, which is undisputed by Mr. Murmello, supports its decision to permanently revoke Mr. Murmello’s teaching certificate # 206654, effective April 13, 2004.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Mary E. Jones
Mary E. Jones
Chair

Columbia, South Carolina
April 13, 2004